

501 Deans 1st Bn

August 1916

Walter Gamm

1ST BATTALION, SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY.

Appendix.

1916

August

1st

Still hot. 2nd Lieuts. Frith & Herepath joined the Battn from the 3rd Battn.

2nd

Rather more artillery activity than usual. A French Aeroplane was brought down in "No Man's land". Again hot.

3rd

"C.O." attended conference at Bde H.Q. at 3 p.m. Work was done reclaiming Barnsley Rd

4th

Draft of 1 officer & 121 O.R. arrived at Transport. Battalion relieved 1st Rifle Brigade in front line. One Coy. R.B. was lent, & held the centre section. A fine day.

5th

Draft came to trenches after being inspected by Divisional Commander. It consisted of 2nd Lt Gage Brown, 7th Somerset Light Infantry & remainder D.C.L.I. & Devons. C.O. went to Bde. H.Q. to meet 2nd Army Commander.

6th

A fine day. Nothing to report.

7th

Brigadier visited trenches at morning "Stand to".

8th

A hot day & very quiet. Battn. was relieved by 1st R. Brigade. In the middle of the relief about 10-30 P.M. a gas attack was made with very dense & powerful clouds of gas, accompanied by heavy shelling. This was not followed up by an Infantry Attack. Only 3 casualties from Shell fire. Casualties from Gas:- 8 officers & 120 O.R.
Officers Killed:- 2nd Lieut. Thompson
" " De Ritter
" " Roseveare
" " Sully
" " Griffiths
" " Le Peton

Suffering from Gas poisoning
Lt. Ellis & 2nd Lt Palmer.
"H" Coy who were very close to the enemy lost heavily, 5 officers & 72 O.R.

9th

No further enemy action. A great number of men went down from the after effect of Gas poisoning. Capt. Peard, 2nd Lieuts Smith, Marler & Bennett were evacuated from this.